

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02505 080725Z

14

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 H-03 NSC-06 SS-07 AID-01 /030 W

----- 085490

R 080635Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2210

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2505

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES C.), SF

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS: SAG VISA DENIALS

REF: STATE 156568

1. DCM CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY DAVID LOUW, SENIOR DFA OFFICIAL AVAILABLE ON JULY 4, AND EXPLAINED EMBASSY WAS INSTRUCTED BY DEPARTMENT TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON URGENT BASIS TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER SAG DENIAL OF VISAS FOR CONGRESSMAN DIGGS AND HIS WIFE. REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR TO CALL ON DFA SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS. APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN SET FOR 1030 AM JULY 10.

2. WHEN DCM ASKED WHAT REASONS WERE FOR DENIAL OF VISA FOR CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. DIGGS, LOUW SAID THAT WHILE INTERIOR DEPT HAD GIVEN NO EXPLICIT REASONS TO DFA, THEY HAD INDICATED IT WAS BECAUSE OF CONGRESSMAN DIGGS' GENERALLY VITUPERATIVE STATEMENTS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. MRS. DIGGS WAS REFUSED VISA SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE WAS ACCOMPANYING HER HUSBAND. LOUW ADMITTED SAG HAD NO RECORD OF ANY ACTIONS OR STATEMENTS BY MRS. DIGGS AGAINST SA AND INTIMATED THAT SHE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN A VISA HAD SHE BEEN TRAVELING STRICTLY ON HER OWN OR AS AN FSO.

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EM BEGIN XGDS-1: LOUW STATED THAT VISA ISSUE WAS RESPONSIBILITY OF INTERIOR MINISTER CONNIE MULDER ("THE BUCK STOPS WITH MULDER") WHO WOULD HAVE HAD RESPONSIBILITY OF PUTTING ISSUE TO CABINET WHERE IT WAS PRESUMABLY DISCUSSED AND TURNED DOWN. LOUW STATED THAT MULDER WAS OBVIOUSLY AWARE THAT DIGGS TRIED TO PERSUADE BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS NOT TO SEE MULDER DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO US, IMPLYING THAT MULDER PROBABLY URGED THE VISA DENIAL IN CABINET. END XGDS-1.

4. WE WILL REPORT IF ANY SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOURIE.
BOWDLER

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NNN

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